

Art Unit: 1797

Indicated allowable claim: combine claims 1-3, and correct claim 1 for the confusing language as suggested below.

Claim 1 (currently amended): [[1.]] A Membrane filter for submerged operation, having a frame (1) that can be lowered into a liquid to be purified, and several modules (2) disposed next to one another in a row, which modules each have a foot element (3) that ~~can be~~ is attached to the frame (1), with a permeate collection space (4), tubes (5) for a fluid that are connected to both ends of the foot element (3), and **plurality of** hollow fiber membranes **bundles** (6) cast into the foot element (3) with **the hollow fiber membranes having** an open end **in the collection space**, ~~whereby~~ the hollow fiber membranes (6) are closed off at their other end and terminate in the liquid to be purified, freely movable, without being clamped in; ~~whereby~~ the tubes (5) are oriented vertically and connected with a collection line at the top, and ~~whereby~~ fiber holding devices (7) are attached to the tubes (5) for lateral guidance of the hollow fiber membranes (6),

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the fiber holding devices (7) are configured as U-shaped brackets that have a crosspiece (8) as well as end-side shanks (9) that can be attached to the tubes (5), and surround the hollow fiber membranes (6) of a module (2) on one side, in the longitudinal direction, as well as at the ends in front of the tubes (5), because their shank length is adapted to the face width of the modules.

[whereby clauses are confusing]